



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

15 DECEMBER 2020

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### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) California City – Fire Department Looking for Arson Suspect

(U) The California City Fire Department is looking for a suspect wanted for starting a fire on Fernwood Avenue last Friday. Captured images of the incident posted to social media show an unidentified individual lighting a firework which ignited nearby tall grass. The suspect then proceeded to flee the scene on a bicycle. The fire department is actively trying to find out more about the suspect's current location and has reached out to the public for assistance.

SOURCE: 14 December 2020, [KGET](#)

### (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

#### (U) Oceanside – USBP Agents Arrest Nine in Boat Smuggling Attempt

(U) US Border Patrol (USBP) agents arrested nine people, including three alleged smugglers, after they were discovered aboard a boat off the Southern California coast. USBP was alerted after the US Coast Guard intercepted a pleasure craft, in an apparent smuggling attempt. The Coast Guard led the boat to a nearby harbor, where the people aboard were interviewed by USBP agents. During interviews, agents discovered that the nine Mexican nationals on-board had entered the US illegally. All nine were arrested and three are being held as material witnesses. Three of the nine individuals were also charged with felony human smuggling.

SOURCE: 14 December 2020, [USA Today](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) District of Columbia – Two Iranian Intel Officers Sanctioned for Probable Death of FBI Agent

(U) Washington DC – The Trump administration on Monday identified and sanctioned two senior Iranian intelligence officials whom the US government says were involved in the abduction and probable death of former FBI agent Robert Levinson. The action comes nearly 14 years after Levinson disappeared in Iran and almost nine months after his family announced they had received information to conclude he had died. Senior government officials told reporters they determined that Mohammad Baseri and Ahmad Khazai, had "direct involvement in the abduction, detention and probable death" of Levinson. A government official would not discuss the specifics of how they reached their conclusion about Baseri and Khazai's culpability in Levinson's case, citing the need to protect intelligence sources and methods.

SOURCE: 14 December 2020, [CNN](#)

#### (U) Kentucky – Authorities Investigating Attack at Menorah-Lighting Ceremony

(U) Lexington – Law enforcement officials in Kentucky are investigating a possible anti-Semitic assault, after witnesses claim someone grabbed a Jewish man and dragged him with their car at a menorah lighting ceremony. The victim, who remains unnamed, told police that he was standing on the curb during the lighting of the menorah when a driver in a dark-colored SUV pulled up next to him and expressed anti-Semitic statements. The driver proceeded to grab the victim's arm and accelerate his vehicle, dragging him along. When the driver let go, the victim fell and struck his head on the pavement. The victim was transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

SOURCE: 14 December 2020, [CNN](#)

## UNCLASSIFIED

### **(U) New York – Cathedral Shooter had Extensive Violent Record**

(U) New York City – The lone gunman who opened fire outside a cathedral during a Christmas concert, is being investigated as a possible "suicide by cop." Police say gunshots were first reported on the front steps of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine immediately following the concert program. The heavily armed gunman was seen firing an unknown number of shots outside of the church as people outside scattered to take cover. When police arrived, officers shot and killed the suspect. Two senior officials identified the gunman as a native of the Dominican Republic with an extensive criminal record. The gunman was already wanted for an incident of menacing with a gun from this past summer. Prior to that, the gunman had a record of assault, attempted murder, fraud, and drug crimes going back more than 30 years.

SOURCE: 15 December 2020, [NBC](#)

### **(U) New York – Jewish School's Website Hacked with Nazi Images and Slurs**

(U) Great Neck – The North Shore Hebrew Academy High School's homepage was hacked to feature anti-Semitic images, slurs, and songs. The non-profit foundation StopAntisemitism.org, which shared the footage of the hacked site on Twitter, said that the personal information of students and teachers at the school were also leaked in the cyber-breach. Nassau County Police confirmed they are investigating the incident but did not immediately have additional information. Liora Rez, the director of StopAntisemitism.org, said the organization was alerted about the breach shortly after 4 p.m. and that it lasted a few hours.

SOURCE: 14 December 2020, [Fox News](#)

## **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

### **(U) Turkey – Security Forces Catch French Terrorist with Red Notice**

(U) Ankara – Turkish security forces have caught a terrorist of French origin wanted on a Red Notice trying to illegally enter Turkey across its southern border. Ministry officials stated that the terrorist was caught in the southern province of Hatay attempting to cross into Turkey from Syria. Following an investigation, it was determined that the person was part of a structure called 'Firqatul Ghuraba' consisting mainly of French-origin people. The terrorist was recruited by Omar Omsen, also known as Omar Diaby, who is suspected of funneling francophone fighters to Syria. He was captured in August in Syria by a group linked to al-Qa'ida.

SOURCE: 15 December 2020, [Daily Sabah](#)

### **(U) Nigeria – Boko Haram Claims Kidnapping of Nigerian Children, Marking an Alarming Move West**

(U) Katsina – Boko Haram asserted responsibility on Tuesday for laying siege to a secondary school in northwest Nigeria and abducting more than 300 boys, marking a striking leap from the extremist group's usual area of operation. Hundreds of gunmen on motorbikes surrounded the boarding school in Katsina state and opened fire on police before rounding up students and dragging them into the woods. Abubakar Shekau, the group's leader, said in an audio message that fighters stormed the school to discourage "Western education." Nigerian leaders initially blamed bandits for the mass kidnapping, but Friday's attack resembled a Boko Haram raid, signaling its fighters have moved nearly 500 miles west.

SOURCE: 15 December 2020, [The Washington Post](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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